

§ 7.25

not authorized for use when the information pertains to non-human intelligence sources or intelligence methods. In all other instances, classification beyond 25 years shall only be authorized in accordance with § 7.28 of this part and Executive Order 12958, as amended.

§ 7.25 Identification and markings.

(a) Classified information must be marked pursuant to the standards set forth in section 1.6 of Executive Order 12958, as amended; 32 CFR part 2001, subpart B; and internal DHS guidance provided by the Chief Security Officer.

(b) Foreign government information shall retain its original classification markings or be assigned a U.S. classification that provides a degree of protection at least equivalent to that required by the entity that furnished the information.

(c) Information assigned a level of classification under predecessor Executive Orders shall remain classified at that level of classification, except as otherwise provided herein, *i.e.*, the information is reclassified or declassified.

§ 7.26 Derivative classification.

(a) Derivative classification is defined as the incorporating, paraphrasing, restating, or generating in a new form information that is already classified, and marking the newly developed material consistent with the classification markings that apply to the source information. Information is also derivatively classified when classification is based on instructions provided in a security classification guide.

(b) Persons need not possess original classification authority to derivatively classify information based on source documents or classification guides.

(c) Persons who apply derivative classification markings shall observe original classification decisions and carry forward to any newly created documents the pertinent classification markings.

(d) Information classified derivatively from other classified information shall be classified and marked in accordance with the standards set forth in sections 2.1 and 2.2 of Executive Order 12958, as amended, 32 CFR

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2001.22, and internal DHS guidance provided by the Chief Security Officer.

§ 7.27 Declassification and downgrading.

(a) Classified information shall be declassified as soon as it no longer meets the standards for classification. Declassification and downgrading is governed by Part 3 of Executive Order 12958, as amended, implementing ISOO directives at 32 CFR part 2001, subpart C, and applicable internal DHS direction provided by the Chief Security Officer.

(b) Information shall be declassified or downgraded by the official who authorized the original classification if that official is still serving in the same position, the originator's successor, or a supervisory official of either, or by officials delegated such authority in writing by the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Chief Security Officer.

(c) It is presumed that information that continues to meet the classification requirements under Executive Order 12958, as amended, requires continued protection. In some exceptional cases during declassification reviews, the need to protect classified information may be outweighed by the public interest in disclosure of the information, and in these cases the information should be declassified. If it appears that the public interest in disclosure of the information may outweigh the need to protect the information, the declassification reviewing official shall refer the information with a recommendation for decision to the Chief Security Officer. The Chief Security Officer shall review the information and make a recommendation to the Secretary on whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the damage to national security that might reasonably be expected from disclosure. The Secretary shall decide whether to declassify the information. The decision of the Secretary shall be final. This provision does not amplify or modify the substantive criteria or procedures for classification or create any substantive or procedural rights subject to judicial review.

(d) Each component shall develop schedules for declassification of records in the National Archives.